



# St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Dear People of Saint Alban's,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord, Jesus Christ. I write to you on behalf of the Planning Team for Reopening for Worship. The team has met weekly since May 22 to develop plans for reopening under the County and diocesan restrictions of COVID-19. However, it is with heavy hearts that we concluded at our last gathering to suspend in-person worship until early in 2021. If there is a marked decline in the COVID-19 pandemic before then, we can implement the plans for reopening sooner. This decision was informed by the rising cases of infection locally and the results of the survey indicating that well over half of the congregation will not be ready to return until we reach Stage 4 (all County restrictions lifted) or a safe, effective vaccine is widely available. I want to express my deep thanks to the team for their efforts: Emily Arents, Jessica Harris, Susan Twomey, the Rev. Nancy Streufert, Bob Webb and the Rev. Cindy Woods. When they agreed to be part of this planning effort, they did so in anticipation that we would return to modified in-person worship relatively soon. Delaying reopening until the new year is not the conclusion the team anticipated when we began our work together.

Our thanks to everyone who responded to the survey. In brief, surveys were mailed to 72 households with 47 households responding representing 90 individuals. Sixty percent of the respondents indicated they would be ready to return at Stage 4, when a safe, effective vaccine is widely available or with other personal health criteria like the recommendation of their physician. Twenty percent of the respondents are ready to come back now. The remaining 19% of respondents fell in between, with a readiness when we are solidly in stage 3 or have had 30 days of no new cases reported. Our primary reason for waiting to reopen is the health of every person who walks through our doors. The survey responses help us to place our own individual readiness to return in the context of the concerns of the larger community.

A delayed opening allows us to redirect some of our energy toward some small outdoor events and activities where those who choose can safely be together. These might include mini-workdays, a hike or walk, outdoor worship, sidewalk chalk parties, the blessing of the animals or drive-by visits for birthdays and other celebrations for members of the congregation. I also intend to open the church sanctuary for short periods of time during the



week for those who would like to come and pray.

We continue to offer many online opportunities for connection on an almost daily and weekly basis: Sunday worship, coffee hour, Morning Prayer Monday through Fridays at 9 a.m., Wednesday night Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. and Compline at 8 p.m. Our monthly meetings for Vestry and Creation Care have also moved online. I am thankful to those who have made our weekly worship possible: Garrett Purchio, Jonah Hohl, Shawn Thompson and Cathy Cox (our video vergers), Rick Timmons, Cathy Larripa, Dan Scofield, Jenni Simpson, Elena Byrd, Nan Voss Herlihy, Jack Burger, the Rev. Nancy Streufert and the Rev. Cindy Woods as well as our guests Jan Wick, Liz Finney and Janet Finney Krull. If you would like to be part of our online

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*Saint Alban's is a community of disciples growing into the full maturity of Christ. Our mission as a community worshipping in the Episcopal tradition is to be devoted to God through prayer, study and action; faithful in welcoming the stranger and serving the needs of our parish and beyond.*

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## Your Vestry

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## July Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on July 21, 2020. The application to become a Cool Congregation was discussed. This program is a component of Interfaith Power and Light of which St. Alban's is a member. It furthers the commitment made by the congregation through the Genesis Covenant to reduce our carbon footprint. Participation recognizes power consumption reduction milestones and can result in awards. There is no cost to participate and we can use the link to Interfaith Power and Light and the Cool Congregation to promote the church's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

The Vestry received a report from the Reopening Team. The results of the survey were discussed along with the need to conduct the activities of the church in compliance with local and state requirements. The findings of the Team lead to delaying reopening until the spring of 2021. Mtr Sara will be writing a letter to the congregation advising the delayed opening, summarize what is being done to further the ministries of the church and possibly hold outdoor gatherings.

Holding a work/fun day was discussed. The activity would be ten or fewer people over two Saturday mornings and would be mostly outdoor projects.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2020.

## Health Ministry at St Alban's

Every summer, starting in 2002 when I began writing newsletter articles, I've written a combination July-August piece, primarily because we've published a combined newsletter during the summer. This year because of the pandemic, we're having an August issue also, so in going back through my files I've retrieved an article from July-August 2003. Here's part of it = surprising how a propos it remains!

"The greatest joy of working in Health Ministries is to see and hear about the wonderful and meaningful work the volunteer visitors are doing. It is so very appreciated by those we visit – **even when, on occasion, it has to be by phone.** I want to encourage each member of St. Alban's – this summer – at least once – pick up the phone and call someone who is homebound or ill. You might never know how much it means to that person; what a blessing it would be!

My summer health encouragement: eat plentifully of the wonderful fresh and tasty veggies and fruits that are in such abundance now. Your body and taste buds will thank you!"

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ministry team, please let me know. I am thankful for Deacon Cindy, Mother Nancy and Bob Webb who make our mid-week offerings possible. In a fairly short time, we have moved much of our ministry to this new way of being. If you have been contemplating joining us there is no time like the present.

Please feel free to speak to any members of the

team with questions or ideas.  
Blessings,

The Rev. Sara L Potter  
Rector

For the Planning Team: Emily Arents, Jessica Harris, Susan Twomey, the Rev. Nancy Streufert, Bob Webb and the Rev. Cindy Woods

## Church Fun Day Volunteers Needed

You are invited to join other members of the congregation to care for the church grounds and property. On Saturday, August 22 and Saturday, 29th from 9am to noon on both days, St Alban's will host a church fun day to complete essential maintenance and upkeep in and around the church building.

Projects for this year's fun day include weeding, cleaning out gutters, removing yard waste, replacing weather stripping on the front door, and washing the solar panels. Other tasks will be available as well.

Due to Covid-19, we are limiting participation on both fun days to a maximum of 10 people per day. We ask that you call the church office and let Carolyn know that you plan to attend. Signups will be done on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please bring a mask and any supplies, such as gloves, that you may need.

We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your support of St. Alban's.

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The bolded letters I edited in just now in hopes you will check in with someone. Our need for human contact is heightened during this time when meeting in person isn't wise. I know it brightens my day to hear from one of you!

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

## Conference Opportunity

Our Fragile Island Home: Protecting God's  
Creation - August 20th and 21st

The Provincial VIII & VI Deacon Conference 2020 was previously scheduled to be held as an in person event however because of COVID-19 the event is now being presented online. The online conference is available to all who are interested in this important environmental justice issue. The registration fee is \$35 and can be completed at The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona website listed below. Please find the pre-conference instructions and registration information at the following site:

<https://www.azdiocese.org/deaconconference.html>

This convention will build on our Presiding Bishop Curry's proclamation at the 79th General Convention (2018) "The work of saving this creation, on one level, it is saving our own lives, and on another level, it is saving the world that God has made. God has created, and we dare not deface what God has made."

Speakers for the conference in alphabetical order: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Andrus, a leader in social justice issues and currently an advocate of climate change.

The Rev. Sheila Moore Andrus, Ph.D, an environmental scientist who will focus on a web-based tool for carbon tracking.

Katharine Hayhoe Ph.D a renowned climate scientist.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Ph.D, a scientist in oceanography who brings the world of religion and science together.

AZ Episcopal Diocese can answer questions regarding the conference and registration. For more information copy and paste this URL to your browser:

<https://www.azdiocese.org/deaconconference.html>



# St. Albans Episcopal Church

1675 Chester Avenue  
Arcata, CA 95521



## WEEKLY GATHERINGS

GROUP:	DAY:	TIME:	CONTACT:
Bible Study	Wednesday	6:30-8pm (via Zoom)	Bob Webb
Choir Rehearsal	Suspended until	further notice	Nan Voss-Herlihy
Morning Prayer	Monday-Friday	9 am (via Zoom)	Mtr. Nancy Streufert
Compline	Wednesday	8 pm (via Zoom)	Deacon Cindy Woods

## MONTHLY GATHERINGS

GROUP:	DAY & TIME:	TIME:	CONTACT:
Creation Care Ministry	2nd Tuesday (via Zoom)	6:30pm-8:00pm	Daniel Moyer
Vestry	3rd Sunday (via Zoom)	12:30pm-2:30pm	Rick Timmons
Wisdom Group	3rd Wednesday	11:30am-1pm (via Zoom)	Emily Arents
Worship Committee	1st Saturday every other month (via Zoom)	10am	Mtr. Sara Potter