



The St. Alban's Tidings (Mostly Good)

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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ARCATA

JANUARY 2021

Dear People of St. Alban's,

Happy 9th day of Christmas! We have turned a page on the calendar year, and I am savoring each moment of Christmas to its end this Wednesday, January 6 with the the feast of the Epiphany.

Our worship on Christmas Eve was something none of us could have imagined a year ago. But it was amazing given the tools we had to work with. It took work and energy and drew on our collective creativity. But that is the way with things that are important to us—we pour our hearts into them. We offered to God the best we have and God richly blessed us in the prayers and praises we offered that night.

I was deeply blessed and am grateful to each one who made it possible—to the bakers who provided such excellent treats—Emily Arents, Cathy Cox, Karen Eckersley, Miriam Hohl, and Jenni Simpson and Deacon Cindy Woods and Kelly Rood who packaged them for us; to Bob Webb who served as the altar guild; to Nan Voss Herlihy who coordinated all of our musicians and to Susan

Twomey, who, along with Nan, played the organ and piano; to Steve Davis who contributed the two beautiful wreaths that grace the front door of the church; to our musicians—Jack Burger, David Childers, Liz Finney, Janet Finney Krull, Jenni Simpson, Dan Scofield, Erin Scofield and Caitlin Wheetley who led us in the carols—and Merry Phillip and Mtr. Nancy Streufert who offered their beautiful duet; to Cathy Cox and Garrett Purchio who served as our video vergers; to all of our worship leaders—the aforementioned Nan and Susan, Dan and Jenni who served as cantors, Dan who read the lessons and Jenni who led the prayers, and Cindy who served as deacon; to all those who made a Christmas Offering (of the total gift we gave \$1173 to Arcata House Partnership); to Elena Byrd who counted said offering; to Carolyn Willis who prepared the bulletin and fielded countless calls and the sign ups for communion; to those who were watching from home adding your voices to ours. What a treat to have so many family members and friends from afar join us on the Zoom call. I know not everyone was able to come Christmas



Eve afternoon to pick-up communion but as your priest it did my spirit great good to see so many of you and wish you Merry Christmas. This is the season of Emmanuel, God with us, and if only for a few moments we were able to practice showing up with each other. My thanks to Emily Arents and Deacon Cindy Woods for taking communion to several members of the congregation who desired it but were not able to come in person.

Be well and safe dear ones. God is with us. Has never left us. And continues to make himself known.

Christmas blessings,

Sara+

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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December Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on December 20, 2020. At this meeting the Vestry addressed three topics: nominations for new Vestry members, annual meeting planning and development of the 2021 parish budget.

The Vestry was advised that discussions have been held with candidates to fill the open Vestry positions. Additional candidates will be contacted over the next two weeks.

The Annual Meeting will be held the last Sunday of January as it has been traditionally scheduled. The date is January 31, 2021. There will be one virtual church service on that Sunday and the annual meeting will follow the service. With a virtual meeting there will be a change in the voting method for the election of new Vestry members and convention delegates. A slide show will be produced, highlighting parish life events of 2020.

The 2021 budget process is underway with a request to ministry leaders for input. A meeting will be held by the end of the month with the budget committee to prepare a draft budget. The draft will be presented to the Vestry on January 13, 2021 for discussion and will be on the agenda of regular January Vestry meeting for approval. With 2020 revenue exceeding plan, the PPP loan converted to a grant and expenses well under plan the beginning position for 2021 is good.

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2021.

Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Here we go – 2021 at last after such an interminable 2020. We have dealt with so much change and adversity in the last year that we can't help hoping for improvements, some joy and some actual rather than virtual connections with one another. Who isn't hoping and praying for celebrating the Eucharist together in our lovely church, sitting in real pews and greeting one another with the Peace with handshakes and hugs?!

Because of the pandemic, most of us have had to adapt, change or at least rethink even the simple tasks of going about almost every aspect of our lives. It's been exhausting and for many of us, it has slowed down the pace of our days. For me, it's actually been a gift in an odd sort of way. Having more time at home, I've come to appreciate my surroundings far more deeply and to accomplish my tasks with that much more

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Annual Meeting

Since this is the year of doing everything in a new and different the Annual Meeting will also be new and different. We will meet as we customarily do on the last Sunday of January (Sunday, January 31 this year). Livestreamed worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. with the meeting following at 12 noon. You are on your own for lunch! To ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote is able to do so, ballots to elect Vestry members and delegates to diocesan convention will be mailed to the congregation on Tuesday, January 19. They must be returned to the office by Saturday, January 30 to be counted in the election. And never fear, the annual slide show is still a thing.

Camp reunion: Save the date!

Camp Living Waters campers and staff please save the date for this year's Camp Reunion— Friday, February 19-Saturday, February 20. We will do it again in Zoomland just as we did for Camp this last summer. Look for more details and registration for the Reunion in late January.

A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself. Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions. Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Canada



The Good Book Club in Epiphany 2021: Gospel of Mark

The Good Book Club began again Friday, Jan 1! This time we are reading the Gospel of Mark during the season of Epiphany. You can find the reading schedule – Jan 1 through Feb 16 (Shrove Tuesday) – at goodbookclub.org/readings. Participants will be in good company with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry:

<https://youtu.be/qhsqefBjSXU>

Mark is relatively short compared to John and Matthew that we did last year, so the daily readings are shorter as well. And as Mark is the gospel appointed for this lectionary year, you will have a chance to dive deep into the scripture through the Good Book Club and then spend time with Mark throughout 2021! For more information, including a list of resources and webinars, contact Mother Nancy.

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conscious appreciation. Family and friends are cherished as always, and yet I value the connections with them even more, if that's possible. These are all things I don't want to lose, as the grip of the virus on our daily lives loosens in months to come.

How about you? Are there adaptations and aspects of your 2020 life that you might actually want to maintain going into the future?

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

From the Rev. Deacon Tina Campbell, Indigenous Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

Truth and Healing Council established in California

Thank you to all of you who responded to last month's article on Native American Heritage Month. It was gratifying to hear from people who are reading/have read the books I mentioned or who are making the effort to learn more about Indigenous people in their area. I was especially pleased by hearing from someone who had taken elements of my article and had localized it for her parish newsletter.

Deacon Donna Arellano, recently the Cathedral Deacon now living in Washington State, sent me a link to the Keynote address given at their Diocesan Convention (Diocese of Olympia) The speaker is The Rev. Dr. Bradley Hauff, The Missioner for Indigenous Ministries for the Episcopal Church and a member of the Presiding Bishop's staff. His speech describes the relationship that Indigenous people have with the earth and the whole cosmos, discusses the Doctrine of Discovery, and reminds us that "There is a need for healing, and healing can occur. There is a need for transformation, and transformation can take place within us. There is a need for redemption, and there's no better redeemer than Christ." You can find his address on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHzxvJrIbJY>

I was recently reminded that here in California Governor Newsom had instituted a Truth and Healing Council. You will recall that this sort of council was begun in South Africa after the end of apartheid. Archbishop Desmond Tutu and others created a forum for victims of gross human rights violations to speak face to face with the perpetrator who had violently abused them during the apartheid years. The clear expression of truth from those so badly treated and the

heartfelt and pained responses of the perpetrator served to shine light on the suffering and injustice of apartheid and to provide an avenue for national healing. This example of truth-telling has become a model for healing and restorative justice around the world.

In his Native American Heritage month proclamation Governor Newsom highlighted the establishment of the California Truth and Healing Council to enable "reckoning with our past, making space for healing and promoting equity". You can read more about the Governor's remarks at:

<https://goldrushcam.com/sierrasuntimes/index.php/news/local-news/26693-california-governor-gavin-newsom-proclaims-november-2020-as-native-american-heritage-month>

The Council is in the process of reviewing nominations for membership and is inviting members of **California Native American tribes** to consult with their office so that they may begin to gather narratives about the relationship between the State and California Native Americans. More information and pertinent contact information is available at the website of the Office of the Tribal Advisor here:

<https://tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc/about/>

(Those of you who watched the documentary, Dawnland, as part of the Sacred Ground curriculum will recognize this style of truth telling.)

I urge you, in this season of Advent, as we prepare to receive Jesus into our hearts, to avail yourselves of these and other resources which can help you recognize Christ in the diversity of

Compline

Please join us Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 8 p.m. for Compline via Zoom. In this short service (15 minutes) from the Prayer Book we offer thanks for the day that is past and ask God for a restful sleep. Contact Deacon Cindy at her new email: cmwoods1730@gmail.com if you wish to join us.

Morning Prayer

Morning prayer continues each morning, Monday thru Friday at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. To join in, email the Rev. Nancy Streufert at email: revnancysstreufert@gmail.com, and she will send you an invitation to join the group. To most fully participate in Morning Prayer you will need a Prayer Book, Hymnal and Bible. Please contact the office (707-822-4102) if you need to borrow any of these items. We will be happy to loan one to you.

Open Sanctuary

The sanctuary is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for prayer and contemplation. Please call the church office when you arrive (707-822-4102) and someone will let you in. Remember to wear a mask (extras are available if you forget yours) and use hand sanitizer before entering the sanctuary. The Memorial Garden is always open for prayer and quiet.

Calling All Cooks

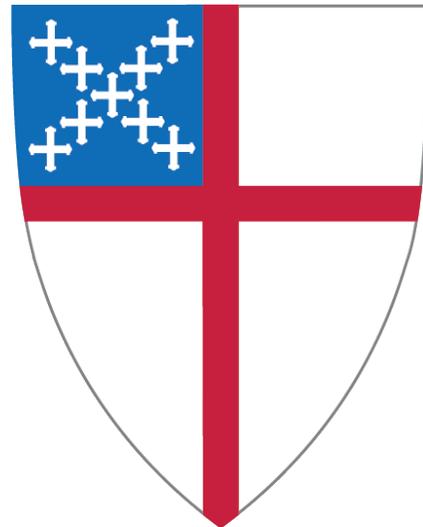
Arcata House Partnership is now asking for meal donations for the Adult Shelter. The shelter is currently housing 15 people and accepts prepared food from local church members and other organizations. We welcome our returning cooks and invite those who would like to consider joining this team as a new ministry. (Mentoring and recipes available) St. Alban's cooks provide dinner on Mondays, and we currently have dates open in February and March. Please email Deacon Cindy, cmwoods1730@gmail.com, if you are interested in helping to provide meals for our local shelter.

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the Creator's people.

Finally, I am thankful to Dean Woodward who is graciously allowing me to have a monthly column in the Cathedral enews. I look forward to sharing with you this ministry of honoring our 2007 Diocesan resolution, "to recognize and welcome Native people into congregational life, develop culturally inclusive liturgies, and support the spiritual, cultural, and social values of the Indigenous Nations of Northern California."

The Rev. Canon Tina Campbell,
Diocesan Indigenous Missioner



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St. Albans Episcopal Church

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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