

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

A R C A T A , C A
 T H E R E V . S A R A L . P O T T E R , R E C T O R

*He is not here...he is going ahead of you to Arcata;
 there you will see him just as he told you.*

Mark 15:7

Dear People of Saint Alban's,

Okay, it doesn't actually say *Arcata* in Mark's Gospel. But you can take the point. Following Christ's resurrection the disciples are sent back out in the world where they will encounter the Risen Lord suggesting that we encounter the Risen Lord, even here in Arcata, 2,000 years later.

As part of our communal Lenten practice twenty five or so members of the congregation engaged the material of Dwight Zscheile's, *People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity*. He notes, wisely I think, that one of our greatest challenges as a Church is an impoverished theological imagination where even lifelong church goers struggle to name the presence and activity of God in their lives and congregations.

Zscheile points to the biblical practice of hospitality as a primary place of encounter with God. He suggests Luke 9, the sending of the seventy, wherein the disciples are sent empty handed to rely on the hospitality of strangers, as a primary text for mission.

This is a significant shift in thinking and might even be unfathomable for Episcopalians accustomed to *offering* (rather than receiving) hospitality and having resources of money and expertise to give. In sending the disciples out Jesus is preparing them for post-resurrection life—to expect the encounter with him out in the world. Where has Christ's presence been most clearly felt by you? As I reflect on this question I am aware that I experience God's presence in our life together most consistently in worship and those times when *as a community of faith* we have engaged our neighbors—Ashes on the Plaza, the Indian Island Candlelight Vigil, the Pride Parade and Festival and the Blessing of the Bicycles held at Pacific Outfitters—to name a few. These were times when we met neighbors on their terms, in the places they gather, rather than expecting them to join us. Each of those occasions was for me marked by excitement and anxiety—indications that I was moving out of my comfort zone and into a place of learning and encounter with God through others. Each experience was marked by sacred moments like hearing Cheryl Seidner sing a song she had composed in her native Wiyot language or clearly agitated individuals visibly calming when receiving prayer

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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.

(Continued from page 1)

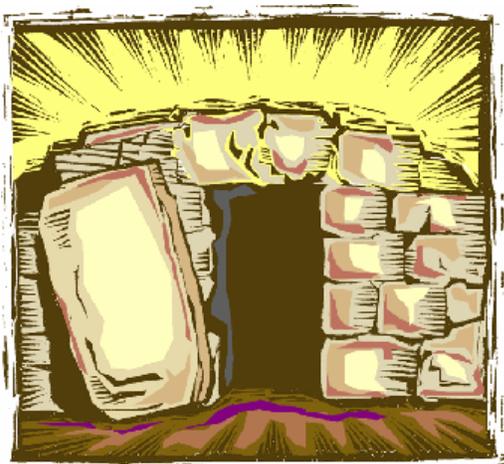
and firm but gentle touch during the administration of ashes on the Arcata Plaza.

Zscheile's is not the only voice that has been encouraging us to pay attention to what God is up to in the neighborhood. This was a foundational assumption of the Missio:Engage learning with the Rev. Tom Brackett. And Bono, the lead singer of the Irish rock band U2, noted something similar when he spoke to the National Prayer Breakfast in 2006. Bono told the story of a wise man in his own life who, in response to all the requests for God to bless his life, said simply: "Stop...stop asking God to bless what you're doing. Get involved in what God is doing—because it's already blessed." All of this counsel is nothing new. In fact it is very old, as old as the scriptures.

He is going ahead of you... there you will see him just as he told you.

Blessings,
Sara+

P.S. This Eastertide I will be joining Bishop Beisner in reading Zscheile's most recent book, *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age*. Do join us!



E A S T E R

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Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

In this newsletter, I plan to do something a little different. I usually try to address health and healing issues in general, not specific to anyone or any group. This time, I'm going to address women's health issues. Because of our gender, we are subject to concerns such as breast and gynecologic problems, particularly cancers. There are a few of us in this parish dealing with or having a history with this very concerning disease. Blessedly, we have the Breast and GYN Health Project right here in Arcata. It was even founded here by Julie Ohnemus, MD, a cancer survivor herself.

We have the opportunity to have a conversation with their nurse-navigator, Kelley Devlin-Lake, RN who will write a piece for me in our May newsletter and who would like to talk with the women of our parish, as well as any interested and supportive men. We hope to set that up in June or early July.

Have a joyous Easter!

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

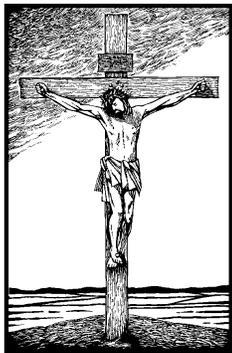


Thank you to everyone who participated with such flexibility in the emergency drills during worship on Sunday, March 22. If you think that the first part of the instructions are beyond you, speak with Carolyn Hunt. As one person put it, she set a high bar for following the directions—getting all the way under her pew! She gets the award for maneuverability. Many thanks to Tom Dewey for his excellent training with the ushers and other congregational leaders. We learned a ton and are now much better equipped to care for one another when (not if) the earth moves again.

Priest Associate Discretionary Fund

As part of the Rev. Nancy Streufert's ministry with us as Priest Associate the congregation has available to her a fund to be used as she encounters those in need.

As with all discretionary funds, this is primarily intended to meet the needs of the poor. Please note, there will a designated offering for the Priest Associate's Discretionary Fund on **Sunday, April 19**. Please make checks payable to *Saint Alban's* with *Priest Associate Discretionary Fund* in the memo. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Good Friday Offering

The offering for Good Friday, April 3, is designated for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Checks should be made out to *St. Alban's* with *Good Friday Offering*

in the memo. Please be generous in support of the work of the gospel in the Land of Holy One.



The Role of Trustees: An important ministry within the Diocese of Northern California

This spring, our Deanery will elect a new Trustee to serve on the Diocesan Board of Trustees beginning in December 2015. The Board of Trustees was authorized at the 2011 Diocesan Convention, formalized in the revised Diocesan Canon 16. In December 2012, the seven Deanery-elected Trustees were joined by three Trustees appointed by Bishop Beisner and five Trustees elected at the 2012 Diocesan Convention to form the new Board of Trustees, assuming the responsibilities formally held by the Board of Directors and the Diocesan Council. A member of the Trustees shall be a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church, resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, and a communicant in good standing of a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

Trustees will:

- Through a Mutual Ministry process with the Bishop, help set goals for the Diocese and periodically evaluate progress toward goals.
- Help develop Diocesan Policy and Strategy in support of mission priorities and operations priorities established by Convention.
- Contribute to Strategic Planning for the Diocese, looking ahead and helping develop policy options to meet changing circumstances.
- Help oversee Diocesan Finance and Administration in support of mission priorities, including the development and adoption of the annual operating budget of the Diocese.
- Serve as Directors of the Diocesan Corporation, the civil legal face of the Diocese, with duties set forth in State law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Corporation, and in acts of Convention.
- Help oversee Diocesan Property and Development in support of mission priorities.
 - o The Diocesan Corporation is the owner of all of the assets of the Diocese, including all real property, funds and other assets of the Missions in the Diocese, with rights and responsibilities of such ownership.
 - o The Trustees shall use diligence to increase the principal funds of the endowments of the Diocese.

Trustees may expect monthly meetings augmented by the Diocese's communication network. They may be invited to work on subcommittees. They are asked to participate in a planning retreat, each January, at the Mercy Center in Auburn, CA.

The new Trustee will be elected at our Deanery convocation Saturday, April 11 2015 at Christ Church, Eureka at 3 p.m. following the Congregational Leadership Conference. Bob Hines of Christ Church, Eureka is the current Trustee representing the Sempervirens Deanery and is com-

pleting his term this year. If you wish to speak with Bob regarding his experience as a Trustee please contact him at 445-8974 or hinesbob33@yahoo.com.

Bishop Beisner will be with us.

Clergy as well as laity can be elected.

If you have prayerfully considered being elected to this important servant ministry as Semper Virens representative to the Board of Trustees here are several things to consider:

- You are regular in attendance at worship
- You are 18 years of age or older
- You are a member of record for at least 6 months
- You are a communicant in good standing
- You are a pledging member of the parish

Board members are elected for a three-year term and attend meetings which are generally at the Office of the Bishop in Sacramento, in addition to committee and other special meetings.

Here are several questions to prayerfully consider:

- What attributes or talents will you bring to the Board?
- What ministries have you participated in within the last two years at your parish?
- Which areas of leadership have you been a part of in your parish.

Please include a recent picture suitable for publication. Please forward the photo and responses to revsara@stalbansarcata.org.

April Birthdays



4th	Ian Curtis	24th	Jonah Hohl
5th	Lilyan Haigh	28th	Heather Hobson Lewis
16th	Ann Wood	29th	Fannie Erickson
18th	Winfield Shoemaker		Tina Rousselot
22nd	Owen Scofield	30th	Stephen DeMarino

Spiritual Forum

These sessions will consist of a 30 minute lecture on DVD followed by 30 minutes of discussion concerning the lecture.

Apr. 5, 2015	Easter – No Forum
Apr. 12, 2015	The History of Christian Theology – Part 7: The Emergence of Christian Doctrine w/ Philip Cary
Apr. 19, 2015	The History of Christian Theology – Part 8: Christian Reading w/ Philip Cary
Apr. 26, 2015	The History of Christian Theology – Part 9: The Uses of Philosophy w/ Philip Cary

Backpacking the Lost Coast—Summer 2015

In keeping with a promise I made when I came home from sabbatical plans are in process for a backpacking trip on August 16-19 through the King Range section of the Lost Coast. The group is limited to fifteen individuals including the trip leader. The cost for the permit is \$15/hiker. The group will camp at the mouth of the Mattole River on August 16 to ensure an early start the

first morning. While each person will be responsible for their own breakfast and lunch dinners will be organized for the entire group. Hikers age 15 and younger must be accompanied by a parent. Hikers aged 16 and up must sign a waiver. If interested please contact the church office by June 15. An organizational meeting will be held in early August for all hikers.



Save the date! Spring cleaning is in the air!

Get your gloves, weed whackers, pruning shears, wheel barrows and other tools ready for the annual parish workday on **Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** We'll work from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and then enjoy lunch together. There are a variety of projects to be done inside and outside of Saint Alban's. Look for the project list in the parish hall.



True North Organizing Network, Humboldt County Schedule of Research Trainings

EUREKA

Thursday, April 9, 7-8:30 pm
United Methodist Church, Eureka (F and Del Norte Streets)
Bilingual, in English and Spanish

ARCATA

Thursday, April 23, 6-7:30
Arcata Methodist Church
In English

FORTUNA

Friday, April 24, 6-8
St. Joseph's Church School, 2280 Newburg Rd, Fortuna
Bilingual, in English and Spanish

For more information: Renee Saucedo (707) 273-3721

Meetings, Clubs, and Other Regularly Scheduled Events

Weekly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day and Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday, Sanctuary	12:15 p.m.	Nan Voss-Herlihy
Evening Healing Prayer/ Eucharist	Tuesday, Sanctuary	5:00 p.m. Silent prayer 5:30 p.m. Prayer service	Emily Arents, Evaonne Hendricks/ Mtr. Sara
Spiritual Forum	Sunday, Library	9:15 a.m.	Bob Webb

Monthly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Bible Study	2nd and 4th Mondays, Library	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Bob Webb
Book Group	1st Monday, Parish Hall	6:00 p.m. Potluck	Fred Moore
Craft Group	3rd Monday, Parish Hall	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Betty Price
Vestry	4rd Wednesday, Library	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Dona Moxon
Worship Committee	1st Saturday, Library	10:00 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter



Saint Alban's Church

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